


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above amendment has cancelled claims 10-16 and 23-25, and has added new claims 31-42. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 17, 21 and 22 are allowable. New independent claims 31 and 36 are allowable, for at least the same reasons that claim 17 is allowable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 31 and claims 32-35 depending therefrom and new independent claim 36 and claims 37-42 depending therefrom also patentable.

In view of these remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 18, 2005



Mark J. Rozman
Registration No. 42,117
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.
8554 Katy Freeway, Suite 100
Houston, Texas 77024-1805
(512) 418-9944 [Phone]
(713) 468-8883 [Fax]
Customer No.: 21906